

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOL USNATO 0417 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON JAN 26
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T USNATO 0417

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/82
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
SUBJECT MODIFICATION TO U.S. STRATEGIC TARGETING POLICY

DEPARTMENT PASS ACTION PRIORITY SECDEF; INFO PRIORITY USCINCEUR,
USNMR SHAPE, USLOSACLANT

REF: (A) USNATO 0278; (B) STATE 012682; (C) USNATO 0310;
D) USNATO 0223; (E) STATE 015858

BEGIN SUMMARY: ALLIED INTEREST IN SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S
JANUARY 10 COMMENTS ON STRATEGIC RETARGETING REMAINS HIGH.
WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT
WARRANTS PROMT AND EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH NATO ALLIES.

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THIS MESSAGE SUGGESTS POSSIBLE SCENARIO, TOGETHER WITH SOME

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THESE IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS.
END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE NOTED (REF. (E)) THAT WASHINGTON IS CURRENTLY PREPARING DETAILED SCENARIO FOR "INFORMING" ALLIES OF CHANGES IN U.S. PLANNING FOR EMPLOYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE HOPE THT THIS MESSAGE WILL BE HELPFUL IN THAT RESPECT, AND URGE THAT RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BELOW BE CAREFULLY CONSIDEREDN WE DO NOT REPEAT NO BELIEVE THAT A "LOW-KEY" APPROACH TO THIS MATTER WILL ACHIEVE THE DESIRED EFFECT.

2. WHILE, AS REPORTED REF. (C), NPG STAFF GROUP HAS NOW HAD

BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SECDEF'S RECENT REMARKS, PRESSURES FOR MORE COMPLEE CONSULTATION ON BACKGROUND, SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPLICATIONS OF STRATEGIC RETARGETING WILL PERSIST. INDEED, SINCE U.S. STATEMENT IN NPG STAFF GROUP ALONG LINES OF GUIDNACE PROVIDED REF. (B), SOME STAFF GROUP REPS HAVE ASKED WHETHER U.S. INTNDS TO FOLLOW UP BY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

3. ONE APPROACH WOULD BE FOR A HIGH LEVEL WASHINGTON TEAM TO COME TO BRUSSELS SOON-PREFERABLY WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS-- TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE (MC) AND DPC RPTDPC PERM REPS. (AS NOTED REF. (A), THIS TEAM COULD ALSO CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE UK OFFICIALS IN LONDON, AND WITH SACEUR, IF WASHINGTON HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO.) THESE DISCUSSIONS COULD BE FOLLOWED LATER BY MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS IN THE NPG STAF GROUP/PERM REPS, AND SHOULD CULMINATE IN FUTHER ELABORATION ON THE THEME BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AT THE NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING IN EARLY JUNE.

4. SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL UNDERTAKING SUCH DISCUSSIONS WITH MC AND DPC RPT DPC SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY FAMILAR NOT ONLY WITH MILITARY DETAILS OF NEW U.S. RETARGETING POLICY, BUT WITH IMPLICATIONS OF POLICY FOR NATO ALLIES AND ALLIED SENSITIVITIES IN THIS AREA. HE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS RANGING FROM TECHNICAL TARGETIN MATTERS TO THOSE DEALING WITH BROAD ASPECTS OF DETERRENCE. WHILE OFFICIAL WILL NO DOUBT WISH TO BRING MILITARY EXPERTS TO DEAL
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WITH SOME QUESTIONS, WE ADVISE AGAINST A FORMAT WHICH WOULD INVOLVE ONLY A DETAILED MILITARY-TYPE BRIEFING. WE SHOULD KEEP LEVEL OFDETAIL PRESENTED TO ONE WHICH FITS WITH ALLIES DEFENSE AND DETERRENCE INTERESTS AND WHICH THEY CAN REPORT CLEARLY AND ACCURATELY TO THEIR CAPITALS WHERE THE REAL COMMUNICATIONS TASK IS NEEDED.

5. U.S. EXPLANATION OF REVISED STRATEGIC POLICY SHOULD

STRESS (A) BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE LEADING TO U.S. DECISION, (B) FACT THAT SHIFT IN TARGETING IS ONE OF EMPHASIS, (C) MILITARY EFFECTS OF INCREASED OPTIONS AND NEW FLEXIBILITY, (D) LIKELY OVERALL EFFECT OF REVISION ON NUCLEAR DETERRENCE, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR THE EFFECTS IN TERMS OF RELATIONSHIP OF U.S. STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES TO DETERRENCE OF AN ATTACK ON NATO EUROPE PREFERABLY VIEWED FROM THEIR VANTAGE POINT AS WELL AS FROM THAT OF NORTH AMERICA. AS SUGGESTED REF A, PRESENTATION SHOULD ALSO EXPLAIN RELATIONSHIP OF MODIFIED U.S. SIOP TO SACEUR'S GSP, AND NATURE OF COORDINATION TO BE (OR ALREADY) ACCOMPLISHED BETWEEN THE TWO. QUESTIONS MAY BE RAISED CONCERNING POSSIBLE REVISION OF DPC RPT DPC DOCUMENTS ON NUCLEAR STRATEGY SUCH AS ZCONCEPT FOR ROLE OF THEATER NUCLEAR STRIKE FORCES IN ACE" (DPC/D(70)59).

6. IN MISSION VIEW, PROMPT AND FULL CONSULTATION ON THIS APPARENT REVISION OF U.S. STRATEGIC POLICY IS MOST IMPORTANT. U.S. WILL EVENTUALLY DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN THE DPC RPT DPC. U.S. MIGHT AS WELL DO IT SOONER WITH A SMILE RATHER THAN LATER UNDER DURESS.

7. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUBJECT TO THE ALLIANCE,

THE VERY HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST HERE THAT HAS CONTINUED TO BE RAISED ABOUT IT SINCE SECDEF'S STATEMENT THE FACT THAT THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED ONLY VERY BRIEFLY WITH NPG AND NOT AT ALL WITH DPC RPT DPC PRIOR TO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT, AND THE FACT THAT U.S. STILL HAS NOT ARRANGED A DATE FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE SUBJECT, IT MIGHT BE BEST TO ALSO CONSIDER THREE OTHER ALTERNATIVES: (A) CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS OR PM DIRECTOR WEISS DO DPC RPT DPC BRIEFING IN BRUSSELS OR (B) U.S. INVITE DPC TO WASHINGTON
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WHERE SECDEF OR CHAIRMAN JOINT CHIEFS COULD DO BRIEFING AND COMBINE TRIP WITH SECSTATE BRIEFING ON MIDDLE EAST OR (C) INVITE SECRETARY GENERAL TO SEND TO WASHINGTON, FOR EXAMPLE, ASYG GARDINER TUCKER, ASSISTANT SYG HUMPHREYS AND GENERAL STEINHOFF FOR FULL BRIEFING SO THAT THEY COULD BRIEF DPC RPT DPC AND MC IN BRUSSELS.

8. REQUEST GUIDANCE. RUMSFELD UNQUOTE RUSH

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